

DETECTIVE #

GOIN' DOWNTOWN
PART ONE (OF TWO)
"THE VANDAL"

STORY, CHUCK DIXON

PAGE ONE

SPLASH

Two Face screams into a walkie-talkie. He has a smoking handgun in his fist. The room behind him is ablaze. Gunsels of his are panicking and flaming arrows fly into the room through a ragged hole in one wall.

TITLE: GOIN' DOWNTOWN

PART TWO

THE VANDAL

TWO-FACE: WHAT IS IT?

TWO-FACE: I'M A LITTLE BUSY RIGHT NOW!

PAGES TWO AND THREE

INSET PANEL ONE

Members of Two-Face's gang are down behind sandbags. A pair manning a heavy machine gun are being blasted back by a wicked barrage of gunfire that tears up sandbags and impacts on the wall behind. One of the cowering mooks speaks into a radio identical to Two-Face's.

SFX: viip! viip! viip!

SHOT MOOK: unnh!

RADIO MOOK: THIS IS **TANGO** OVER AT THE HALL OF RECORDS.

RADIO MOOK: SOMEBUDDY'S **ATTACKIN'** THE PLACE!

INSET PANEL TWO

TIGHT close-up of Two-Face screaming into the radio.

TWO-FACE: **WHO?**

TWO-FACE: IS IT THE **BAT?**

ELECTRONIC: (SMALL) NOT HIM---IT'S--

BIG SPREAD

Upshot. Dramatic.

Bane stands in the street and fires that gatling gun. Smoking rounds cascade from it and the muzzleflash lights the scene. Ladonna cowers behind a low pile of rubble with that case by her.

LADONNA: YOU **CRAZY**, BANE?

LADONNA: TWO-FACE **OWNS** GOTHAM.

BANE: A **TEMPORARY** SITUATION ONLY.

SFX: **VRAAAAAAAAAAM!**

PAGE FOUR

PANEL ONE

Bane holds the smoking gatling gun with the barrels still whirling around. He looks at it.

SFX: (SMALLISH) whiiiiirrrrrrrrrr---

BANE: NO AMMO.

PANEL TWO

Ladonna watches from cover as Bane tosses aside the gatling gun and the ammo harness.

LADONNA: THAT MEAN WE GET **OUT** OF HERE, *ESE*?

BANE: YOU STAY HERE. DO **NOT** MAKE ME HUNT FOR YOU.

PANEL THREE

Bane rushes forward with a grenade in each hand. He's releasing the spoon levers from each and they go flying. Ladonna peeks from behind cover. Bullets strike the street around Bane.

SFX: sping! sping!

LADONNA: YOU AND ME, BABE.

PANEL FOUR

She holds fingers to her ears as bullets strike the rubble around her.

LADONNA: (SMALL) please let him get killed.

please let him get killed.

please let him get killed.

PAGE FIVE

PANEL ONE

Those Two-Facers behind the sandbags. Downshot. The grenades are arcing down into their little bunker. The guy with the radio looks up in dismay.

RADIO MOOK: (SMALL) aw man...

PANEL TWO

Two-Face looks pained as he holds the walkie talkie away from his ear.

ELECTRONIC: **BLAAAAAAAAAM!**

PANEL THREE

Bane stands in the ruined sandbag bunker with blackened bodies lying about. He gestures to Ladonna who stands up from cover.

PANEL FOUR

She is dragging that case across the street as seen by two caped figures watching from above.

LADONNA: I'M COMIN'!

LADONNA: I'M **COMIN'**!

PANEL FIVE

Two-Face turns to his men holding down the frt at the window and shouts at them.

TWO-FACE: SADDLE UP! WE'RE **OUTTA** HERE!

MOOK 1: MAYBE YOU AIN'T **NOTICED**, BOSS---

PAGE SIX

PANEL ONE

Large panel.

That coalition of gangs moves toward Two-Face's stronghold firing shotguns and bows as gangbangers move over the rubble carrying long ladders like an old time castle siege.

FROM CITY HALL: ---BUT WE ARE **SERIOUSLY** SURROUNDED.

GANGBANGERS: **KILL TWO FACE!**
KILL TWO FACE!

PANEL TWO

Gangbangers storm up the ladders toward the windows with Two-Facers struggling to push the ladders off under a hail of arrows. All very medieval.

GANGBANGERS: **KILL TWO FACE!**
KILL TWO-FACE!

PANEL THREE

Two-Face has a gun in each hand and firing as the bangers come pouring through the windows past his defeated mooks.

TWO-FACE: **TRY IT, YOU MAGGOTS!**

TWO-FACE: **TRY IT!**

PAGE SEVEN

PANEL ONE

Upshot of Batman and Robin. Robin has a jumpline out with a batarang attached in preparation to jump. Batman stands immobile.

ROBIN: WE CAN GET IN THROUGH THAT **SKYLIGHT** AND AMBUSH HIM.

ROBIN: YOU TELL ME **WHERE** YOU WANT ME AND--

BATMAN: NO.

PANEL TWO

Robin looks at Batman in confusion. Batman looks grim.

ROBIN: huh?

BATMAN: WE LEAVE BANE **ALONE**.

PANEL THREE

Robin looks outraged in close shot.

ROBIN: BUT THAT'S THE HALL OF **RECORDS**! IT'S GOTHAM'S ARCHIVES! ROBIN: WHO **KNOWS** WHAT HE'S UP TO! **WHY** ARE WE STANDING BACK?

PANELFOUR

Batman turns to him with a wry smile.

BATMAN: I'LL GIVE YOU **TWO** REASONS.

PAGE EIGHT

PANEL ONE

Bane strides along a broad corridor lined with tall shelves and filing cabinets. It's a vaulted chamber like the great room of a library with a mezzanine lined with rows of shelves above. Big scale. This place is huge. Ladonna is following, struggling with that case. She's looking around with wide eyes.

LADONNA: THIS PLACE **IS** A LIBRARY.

BANE: OF A SORT. BUT IT IS **MORE** THAN THAT.

BANE: IT IS A REPOSITORY OF THIS CITY'S HISTORY.

PANEL TWO

Downshot. Two Two-Face mooks move sneakily along the mezzanine with Bane below gesturing grandly. The mooks are armed with shotguns.

BANE: EVERY EXCHANGE, EVERY TRANSACTION AND DEAL IS DOCUMENTED HERE.

BANE: FROM THE GRAND TO MINUTIA. ALL IS STORED IN THESE MOLDERING BINS AND SAGGING SHELVES.

PANEL THREE

Bane is pulling his handgun from his belt in the foreground. Ladonna looks around in wonder behind him.

LADONNA: COOL.

LADONNA: SO WHAT'RE YOU GONNA **DO** WITH IT?

BANE: **DESTROY** IT.

PANEL FOUR

Ladonna reacts in surprise as Bane whips that pistol up and lets go a few rounds.

SFX: **BLAM BLAM BLAM BLAM**

LADONNA: (SMALL) *MADRAZO!*

PAGE NINE

PANEL ONE

Those two Two-Face mooks fall crashing in the foreground of a low angle shot. Ladonna looks stunned. Bane is turned to walk away.

BANE: BRING THE CASE AND FOLLOW ME.

LADONNA: oh.

PANEL TWO

Penguin in close-up looking freaked.

PENGUIN: **BANE?**

PENGUIN: THE HALL OF **RECORDS?**

PANEL THREE

Penguin is in deep thought as two runners speak t him. They lean on his table and look winded. An armed mook smiles.

RUNNER 1: HE TOOK OUT ALLA **TWO-FACE'S** GUYS.

RUNNER 2: AN' ALLA THE GANGERS ARE AT **CITY HALL** HOWLIN' FOR DENT'S BLOOD.

MOOK 1: SOUNDS LIKE **GOOD** NEWS, PENGUIN.

PENGUIN: (SMALL) mm...I'M NOT SO CERTAIN...

PANEL FOUR

Penguin sits lost in deep and unpleasant thought. His chippie sits by him.

PENGUIN: WHAT DOES BANE **WANT** WITH A MOUNTAIN OF IRRELEVANT RED TAPE?

PENGUIN: THE BAT AND DENT AND BANE ALL ON A **COLLISION** COURSE.

PENGUIN: WHO DO I WANT TO **WIN?**

PAGE TEN

PANEL ONE

An upshot of a guy in Bandido colors holding a handgun like a mallet in his fist. There are flames behind him.

BANDIDO: HARVEY DENT---YOU HAVE BEEN CHARGED WITH THE **MURDER** OF OUR BROTHERS.

BANDIDO: AND THE **TRESPASSIN'** ON OUR TURFS.

BANDIDO: AND BEIN' AN ALL AROUND **PIG**!

BANDIDO: HOW DO YOU **PLEAD**?

PANEL TWO

Large panel

Two-Face is bound in a chair and poised atop a precarious pile of crates and boxes. He wears a noose tied to the gooseneck curve of a streetlight above him. The mob of gangers looks up at him.

TWO-FACE: GUILTY AS CHARGE.

CROWD: **HANG HIM!**

HANG HIM!

HANG HIM!

PANEL THREE

The bandido judge uses the handgun as a gavel and bangs on the hood of a derelict car. He's seated crosslegged on the hood.

SFX: **BLANG! BLANG! BLANG!**

BANDIDO: **ORDER IN THE STREET!**

BANDIDO: **SHUT UP!**

PANEL FOUR

The Bandido judge holds up Dent's scarred silver dollar and grins through missing teeth.

BANDIDO: LET'S LET **CHANCE** DECIDE.

PAGE ELEVEN

PANEL ONE

Close-up of Two-Face snarling, the noose tight around his neck.

TWO-FACE: WORKS FOR **ME**.

TWO-FACE: FLIP THE COIN.

PANEL TWO

The Bandido judge flips the coin high in the air. Mooks laugh and cheer in the foreground.

BANDIDO: HERE'S THE **DEAL**, DENT...

BANDIDO: HEADS **WE** WIN, TAILS **YOU** LOSE.

MOOKS: HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA!

PANEL THREE

The coin flipping into the air.

PANEL FOUR

TIGHT close-up of Two-Face, the handsome sided of his face is sweating. His clothes are torn up and the handsome ide of his face is bruised. The other side? Who could tell?

PANEL FIVE

The coin continues flipping.

PANEL SIX

Tight downshot of the mooks looking up with broad grins.

PAGE TWELVE

PANEL ONE

A batarang comes into the panel to knock the coin away as the mooks look up at it in surprise.

SFX: (TINY) pling!

PANEL TWO

The judge looks up in dismay as a bat shadow falls over him.

PANEL THREE

Batman lands on the roof of the car and boots the judge into his pals.

BATMAN: CASE DISMISSED.

BANDIDO: ungh!

PANEL FOUR

Downshot. Two-Face turns his head to look up over his shoulder.

OFF PANEL (ABOVE) FUNNY SITUATION, HUH?

TWO-FACE: whuh?

PAGE THIRTEEN

PANEL ONE

Two-Face twists in his bonds to look up at Robin perched atop the streetlight grinning down at him.

TWO-FACE: **YOU!**

ROBIN: HOW'S IT FEEL AT THE OTHER END OF THE **ROPE**, HARV?

TWO-FACE: GET ME OUT OF THIS **CHAIR**, BRAT!

PANEL TWO

Robin smiles in close-shot.

ROBIN: GIVE ME **TWO** GOOD REASONS WHY I SHOULD.

PANEL THREE

Batman has leapt from the car and sends batarangs into the massed gangers coming for him.

BATMAN: **ROBIN!**

BATMAN: **CUT HIM LOOSE!**

PANEL FOUR

Robin has a grip on the gooseneck of the streetlamp with his legs and hang upside down to saw at the bonds holding Two-Face into his chair.

ROBIN: **HOLD STILL!**

PAGE FOURTEEN

PANEL ONE

Back at the Hall of Records. We're under the Hall now in a large basement area. There are thick stone support columns and masses of boxes of files and folders. Bane and Ladonna are in a dimly lit area in the background.

LADONNA: THIS IS A PRETTY DAMN BIG **PLACE**, VATO.

LADONNA: HOW YOU GONNA BLOW IT **UP?**

PANEL TWO

Ladonna holds a metal canister about the size of a 48 ounce juice can. The metal case she's been carrying around open and she crouches over it. Other canisters like this one sit in recesses in the case. The canister is stainless steel with a band of yellow and black checks around it and an atomic symbol. There's a lantern here for a light source.

LADONNA: THESE **THINGS** YOU HAD ME HUMPIN' AROUND?

LADONNA: ARE THEY LIKE **SUPER**-BOMBS?

PANEL THREE

Bane plucks the canister from her fingers and she looks shocked.

BANE: THEY ARE **NUCLEAR** BOMBS.

LADONNA: ***AI!***

PANEL FOUR

He's popped open the top of the canister and there's a digital readout there and several buttons.

BANE: A **LOW** YIELD WEAPON. MORE **COMPACT** THAN DYNAMITE.

BANE: WITH THE **ADDED** DETERRENCE OF RADIATION.

SFX: (SMALL) tic!

PAGE FIFTEEN

PANEL ONE

Batman slugs some ganger and sends him back into his buddies who impact on that stack of boxes that hold up Two-Face.

GANGER 1: unnh!

GANGER 2: oof!

PANEL TWO

Two-Face looks panicked as the stack teeters under him and his chair jiggles.

TWO-FACE: **HURRY!**

PANEL THREE

The Bandido judge shouts from where he leans woozily on that derelict car as thugs go flying by in the foreground.

BANDIDO: **DENT!**

BANDIDO: DROP THE **HAMMER** ON DENT!

PANEL FOUR

Batman is spinkicking some hoods as others rush for the stack of crates and boxes.

GANGER 2: **KILL HIM!**

GANGER 3: **HANG HIM!**

PANEL FIVE

Robin saws frantically at Two-Face's bonds as Two-Face panics.

TWO-FACE: **DOUBLE** TIME, YOU LITTLE SON OF--

ROBIN: **LANGUAGE!**

PAGE SIXTEEN

PANEL ONE

Bane is crouched and placing some of those canisters around the base of a support column. He's cleared piles of files away from it. Ladonna watches.

LADONNA: YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'RE **DOIN'**, BANE?

BANE: I **READ** A LOT.

LADONNA: ABOUT **NUKES**?

PANEL TWO

Bane touches the buttons on another canister.

BANE: AND **HISTORY**.

BANE: ROME DID **MORE** THAN LEVEL THE CITIES OF HER ENEMIES.

BANE: IT SALTED THE EARTH SO THAT **NOTHING** COULD GROW THERE.

SFX: (SMALL) tic tic tic

PANEL THREE

Bane stands now with Ladonna behind him.

BANE: I WILL REDUCE GOTHAM CITY'S MEMORIES TO **ASHES**.

BANE: AND POISON THE GROUND **BENEATH** THEM.

LADONNA: HOW MUCH **TIME** WE GOT, *ESE*?

PANEL FOUR

Ladonna is running flat out into the foreground. Bane stands by that column.

BANE: TEN MINUTES.

PAGE SEVENTEEN

PANEL ONE

Back at Two-Face's "trial". The gangers topple that pile of crates. Batman is jumping into a few of them kicking and punching.

GANGERS: **SWING**, TWO-FACE, **SWING**!

PANEL TWO

Two-Face hangs onto the rope around his neck to take the weight off his neck. He is still partly bound in the chair and kicking his legs. Robin is crouched above him.

TWO-FACE: guuk!

TWO-FACE: gaak!

ROBIN: HANG **TOUGH**, HARV!

PANEL THREE

Robin slices the rope with the batarang with a grin.

ROBIN: AND WATCH THAT FIRST STEP.

PANEL FOUR

In the foreground Two-Face drops onto the pile of crates crushing them under him as the chair flies to splinters. Batman is tossing a gangster into a bunch of his buddies in the background.

TWO-FACE: unnnngh!

PANEL FIVE

Two-Face runs away from the scene dropping pieces of chair as he runs.

PAGE EIGHTEEN

PANEL ONE

Robin swings down to kick a few gangers aside as Batman battles on.

ROBIN: HE'S GETTING **AWAY**.

BATMAN: THAT WAS THE **PLAN**.

PANEL TWO

Bane and Ladonna run down a broad avenue away from the Hall of Records. Ladonna is in the lead. The Hall is a couple of blocks behind them.

LADONNA: (WEAK) pant! pant! pant!

PANEL THREE

Batman and Robin are back-to-back as an army of angry thugs close in from all around them. Robin has his bo staff out.

ROBIN: AND WHAT'S THE **NEXT** PART?

BATMAN: I'M **WORKING** ON THAT.

PANEL FOUR

Ladonna runs with fists pumping and cheeks puffed out. Bane is gaining on her.

LADONNA: (WEAK) pant! gasp! pant! pant!

PAGE NINETEEN

SPLASH

Bane and Ladonna are thrown toward us by the blast down the street in the background. There's a bright flash that dramatically backlights them and everything that's not nailed down along the street (derelict cars, bricks, debris, mailbox, whatever) takes a bounce. Dust flies forward propelled by the concussive wave.

PAGE TWENTY

PANEL ONE

LARGEST PANEL

Batman and Robin are sent flying along with all those hoods who were surrounding them.

The following panels are in a grid or slices. So long as they're uniform.

PANEL TWO

Penguin and his chippie are thrown to the floor by the tremor. Pengie's table upends and his martini goes flying.

PANEL THREE

Downshot. Oracle looks up worried as the room shakes. She reflexively throws her hands on equipment on her workstation. Her monitors all go whacky with lines and snow.

PANEL FOUR

Harvey spills a cup of coffee on himself as the police HQ shakes. Montoya grabs a desk to steady herself.

PANEL FIVE

Batgirl backs from the corner of a rooftop as a few bricks are shaken loose.

PAGE TWENTY ONE

PANEL ONE

Ladonna rises from the street coughing. She's covered with ash and dust. Bane, also dusted with gray ash, stands looking off panel.

LADONNA: (WEAK) koff! koff! hrraaak!

BANE: THE DESTRUCTION IS TOTAL.

BANE: THE ENDGAME BEGINS.

PANEL TWO

Ladonna is brushing dust from her hair as she sits up on the street. Smoke and dust roils across the ground. Bane is walking away.

LADONNA: koff! WHAT **NOW**, VATO?

BANE: NOTHING. YOU ARE FREE TO GO.

LADONNA: THAT'S **IT?**

BANE: ONE LAST REQUEST...

PANEL THREE

Bane looks over his shoulder.

BANE: BEAR WITNESS.

BANE: TELL **EVERYONE** WHAT YOU SAW TONIGHT.

PANEL FOUR

High downshot. The Hall of Records is collapsed in on itself in a pile of marble. A tiny Bane and Ladonna walk away down a broad avenue leading from it.

LADONNA: *NO HAY **PROBLEMO**, SENOR BANE.*

PAGE TWENTY TWO

PANEL ONE

Robin's gloved hand holds a device with a vu meter on it. The needle on the meter is well shy of the redzone on the right end.

SFX: (TINY) dit...dit...dit...dit...

OFF PANEL: NOTHING TO GET IN A PANIC ABOUT.

PANEL TWO

Batman and Robin stand on a roof and look at the smoking ruins of the Hall.

ROBIN: BACKGROUND RADIATION IS A **SKOOCH** HIGHER THAN NORMAL.

ROBIN: BUT I'LL BET ITS HOT **INSIDE**.

BATMAN: GORDON CAN RESTRICT ACCESS WHEN HE TAKES THIS AREA.

PANEL THREE

Robin regards Batman.

ROBIN: I KNOW **ONE** REASON WE HAD TO LET BANE HAVE HIS WAY WAS 'CAUSE WE HAD TO SAVE TWO-FACE'S LIFE.

ROBIN: BUT YOU SAID THERE WAS A **SECOND** REASON.

BATMAN: **BANE** HAD NO REASON TO DESTROY THE CITY'S RECORDS.

PANEL FOUR

Batman looks grim as he looks down in close-up.

BATMAN: BUT **SOMEONE** DID.

BATMAN: AND I HAVE A FEELING THEY'RE **ABOUT** TO STEP INTO THE LIGHT.

THE END